

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, ESTU, GR, TU
SUBJECT: CONTINUED REACTION TO SFRC VOTE ON EMBARGO ISSUE AND
THE APPEARANCE OF FORMER KING CONSTANTINE

REF: A. STATE 122112 (NOTAL) B. STATE 122082
C. BONN 8842 (NOTAL)

1. THE GREEK MEDIA CONTINUED TO GIVE CONSIDERABLE PLAY TO THE
EMBARGO ISSUE OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS. IN ADDITION TO THE
REPORTING OF FACTUAL MATERIAL, INCLUDING SECRETARY VANCE'S
COMMENTS (REF B), AND REPRINTING RELATED EXCERPTS FROM THE
NEW YORK TIMES AND OTHER FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS, COVERAGE ON
SUNDAY FOCUSED LARGELY ON WIRE SERVICE STORIES THAT
PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD "INSIST" ON THE SUSPENSION OF THE EMBARGO
AND WAS EXAMINING NEW MEANS TO GAIN CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL.
ALSO REPORTED WERE RELEVANT STATEMENTS MADE BY TURKISH
PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS VISIT TO BONN
(REF C) WHICH PRESS HEADLINES CALLED "BLACKMAIL" AND INDICATIVE
OF HIS "WRATH" AT THE SFRC VOTE.

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2. ON SUNDAY ATTENTION SHIFTED IN PART TOWARDS THE SUPPOSED
ROLE OF FORMER KING CONSTANTINE IN INFLUENCING THE OUTCOME OF
THE SFRC VOTE. THE SATURDAY EDITION OF FAR RIGHT ELEFTHEROS
COSMOS HAD CARRIED A FULL FRONT PAGE STORY, UNDER THE BANNER
HEADLINES "PERSONAL TRIUMPH OF THE KING IN FAVOR OF GREECE",
WHICH CLAIMED THAT CONSTANTINE'S EFFORTS HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL

IN INFLUENCING THE SFRCVOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MAINTENANCE OF THE EMBARGO. SUNDAY'S ELEFTHEROS COSMOS EMPHASIZED THAT THE KING HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN THE U.S. TO THE BENEFIT OF GREECE, A FACT WHICH HAD BEEN IGNORED BY THE REST OF THE GREEK MEDIA. IN AN ATTEMPT TO CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT, OPPOSITION LEADERS ZIGHDIS (UDC) AND ELIOU (EDA) ASKED THE GOG TO COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS THAT THE DETHRONED KING WAS INVOLVED IN GREECE'S AFFAIRS. ELIOU SPECIFICALLY ASKED IF THE GOG HAD BEEN AWARE BEFOREHAND THAT THE EX-KING WOULD BE GOING TO THE U.S. (PASOK'S PAPANDREOU WAS OUT OF GREECE AND REFRAINED FROM COMMENTING UNTIL HIS RETURN). IN REPLY, A GOG SPOKESMAN SIMPLY STATED THAT THE EX-KING WAS FREE TO GO WHEREVER HE PLEASED AND TO ACCEPT WHATEVER HOSPITALITY HE CHOSE, ADDING THE GOG WAS NOT INTERESTED IN "WHOM" HE MEETS AND WHAT HE DOES."

3. THIS EXCHANGE SERVED, NEVERTHELESS, TO KEEP THE TOPIC ALIVE IN THE PRESS. LEFTIST ELEFTHEROTYPIA WROTE IN ITS MAIN STORY THAT THE U.S. WAS PROMOTING THE KING IN A SUSPICIOUS MANNER, AND ACCUSED THE U.S. OF INTERVENING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF GREECE. COMMUNIST RIZOSPASTIS EDITORIALIZED THAT THE PENTAGON WAS PROMOTING THE KING AND CHARGED THAT SENATOR JAVITS, WHO HAD RECENTLY BEEN IN GREECE AND TURKEY ON A NATO-RELATED VISIT, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HONORS BESTOWED IN CONGRESS ON CONSTANTINE. ON THE OTHER HAND, ULTRY CONSERVATIVE ESTIA NOTED THAT THE FORMER KING SHOULD NOT BE CRITICIZED FOR HAVING LABORED IN THE U.S. IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF GREECE, BUT THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE REAL RECOGNITION FOR THE SFRC VOTE SHOULD GO TO THE CURRENT GREEK AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON.

4. ON MONDAY, SEVERAL OF THE AFTERNOON EDITIONS CARRIED SIMILAR ACCOUNTS ON THE EXCHANGE. ELEFTHEROTYPIA ALSO REPORTED THAT INDEPENDENT, FORMER UDC DEPUTY PAPATHEMELIS HAS PRESENTED A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ASKING THE GOG WHAT MEASURES IT HAD TAKEN TO INFORM THE SENATE THAT THE EX-KING'S PRESENCE THERE VIOLATED DIPLOMATIC CUSTOM AND CONSTITUTED INTERVENTION IN GREECE'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE ALSO INQUIRED WHETHER THE GOG HAD ATTEMPTED TO DO SOMETHING TO FORESTALL THIS DETRIMENTAL DEVELOPMENT. MCCLOSKEY

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